

STREAM CIPHER ENCRYPTION APPLICATION ACCELERATOR  
AND METHODS THEREOF

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5           A system for encrypting and decrypting data formed of a number of bytes  
using the ARCFOUR encryption algorithm is disclosed. The system includes a  
system bus and an encryption accelerator arranged to execute the encryption  
algorithm coupled to the system bus. A system memory coupled to the system bus  
arranged to store a secret key array associated with the data and a central processing  
10   unit coupled to the system bus wherein encryption accelerator uses substantially no  
central processing unit resources to execute the encryption algorithm.

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